(a) whether the infiltration of terrorists from Nepal have increased during the past few years;

(b) if so, whether there is urgent need to fence the Indo-Nepal border to check infiltration;

(c) the total length in Kilometers of Indo-Nepal border; and

(d) the time by which fencing along Indo-Nepal border would commence and be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) to (d) The 1,751 Kms. Long Indo-Nepal border has historically been an open border with a visa-free travel regime. There have been instances in recent years of misuse of this open border for staging terrorist activities directed against India. In view of these developments, the concerned agencies of His Majesty's Government of Nepal and the Government of India have remained in regular touch, both directly and through the bi-lateral institutional mechanisms, such as the Joint Working Group on Border Management and Home Secretary level talks. As a result of cooperation between the two countries, many terrorist conspiracies sponsored by under-cover intelligence operatives based in Pakistan embassy in Kathmandu have been neutralised.

In view of the friendly relations between the two countries and extensive trans-border linkages of the local population on both sides, it may not be desirable to change the nature of this border by erecting fencing along this border. An Action Plan has been prepared in consultation with concerned States to strengthen policing and intelligence collection along this border, including patrolling of vulnerable stretches.

Terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir

637. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it a fact that terrorists released in exchange of the hijacked plane were kept in jail without trail and conviction; if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether those terrorists are active in Jammu and Kashmir; and

(c) if so, the special strategy adopted by Government to meet the challenge?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) Court proceedings were underway in respect of the militants released in connection with the hijacking.

(b) No. Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Drug Market

638. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Delhi is emerging as an active player in the drug market;

(b) if so, whether Delhi is becoming large home-grown network dealing in narcotics; and

(c) whether a few seizures of narcotics from farm houses around Delhi and terrorist links too?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) The disclosures made by the arrested persons indicate that Delhi is in some cases being used as a transit route to smuggle drugs into foreign countries.

(b) and (c) The drugs are mostly smuggled into Delhi from some of the neighbouring countries for onward transmission to other foreign countries. There was since last one year only one case in which the drugs recovered from a farm house had terrorist links.

Re-Rendering the National Anthem

639. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some music composers are planning to re-render the National Anthem for the new millennium;

(b) if so, whether Government have given its approval for the re-rendering; and

(c) what are the factors necessitating the re-rendering of the National Anthem?